

Yvonne Sparrow

Yvonne Sparrow is the daughter of Ryan Finley Sparrow and Mary Abney Moody. She was born Jan 22, 1934 in Butler, Choctaw County, AL. She married Jay Arch Flanagan on Nov 28, 1958 in Butler, AL. She and Jay had 3 sons. Yvonne was known as “Polly” to her family.

Yvonne grew up in Lavaca, AL, a small farming community. Shortly after WW II her family moved to Butler, the county seat of Choctaw County. She went through high school in Butler graduating in 1952. In high school she was a member of the Beta Club for four years and President her senior year. She held offices in several organizations including Editor of the yearbook and was voted “best all around” as a senior. She attended a junior business college in Harlingen, TX and returned to Butler where she worked for several years for Harry Barrett, Accountant.

After marriage in 1958, she and Jay moved to Greenville, SC, the home office of J. E. Sirrine Co. A year later they moved to a field project in Wisconsin for a year then returned to Greenville where they were permanently located. With no children yet, the experience in Wisconsin was a good time to try out skiing, learning about the Midwest and adapting to local customs. The people were friendly and seemed to enjoy someone from another part of the country. The sons were all born in Greenville, 2 years apart starting in 1961. She did a good job raising the boys as can be attested to by their education and successes. Yvonne was active in the church, community affairs and several social groups. She also supported the boys in their sports activities, scouts and academics. She was a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts.

As the sons went to college and left home to begin their careers, Yvonne returned to work as an accountant; working first with an accounting service and then for Arbor Engineering, a small civil engineering and landscape architecture firm. During this period she also had more time to devote to church work and community endeavors. A lot of her time was spent in supporting her husband in his engineering career. That included entertaining and being a member of the local chapter of the Engineering Society’s Auxiliary, including serving as president. Yvonne has many friends in the Greenville area, having lived there a large part of her life. Because of good judgement and an ability to work with people, she is effective in the church and community.

Yvonne grew up Baptist but attended Fourth Presbyterian Church and later John Knox Presbyterian Church, both of which were good experiences. Her main passions have been her church, where she was elected an Elder, being a homemaker, worrying about her children, and bragging about her grandsons.